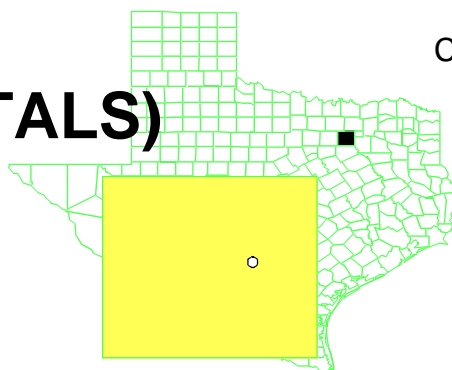


# RSR CORP. (MURPH METALS) TEXAS

EPA ID# TXD079348397



**EPA REGION 6**  
Congressional District 30  
Dallas County  
West Dallas

Updated: 04/06/00

## Site Description

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### Location:

- ! The RSR Corp. site is located in West Dallas, Dallas County, Texas.
- ! The abandoned smelter is located near the center of the site study area at the intersection of Westmoreland and Singleton Boulevard. The site study area is bounded on the north and east by the Trinity River, on the south by Fort Worth Avenue, and on the west by Loop 12.

### Population:

- ! Approximately 17,000 people live within the study area.

### Setting:

- ! Urban mixed single and multi family residential areas, light industrial and commercial as well.
- ! Multi-family public housing (1600 units, mostly Black) is adjacent to the smelter.
- ! Single family residential areas predominate to the East and West of the smelter (predominantly Black to the East, predominantly Hispanic to the West).
- ! Commercial and industrial areas are generally to the South.
- ! Surface contamination of metals (lead, arsenic, and cadmium) resulted from air deposition of smokestack emissions from lead smelting operations, and from disposal of battery material and slag.

### Hydrology:

- ! Alluvium and terrace deposits of gravel, sand, and clay for the top 13 feet, overlying Eagle Ford shale from 13 to 18 feet.
- ! Drinking water in the area comes from surface reservoirs used by the City of Dallas system, not from local wells in the vicinity of the site.

## Wastes and Volumes

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The site has been divided into five operable units to facilitate timely remediation:

- ! OU No. 1 Single Family Residential Area: 6,800 properties were surveyed by TNRCC in 1993 to determine which might have waste slag or battery chips. 420 properties cleaned up concluding in 1994 under Removal Authorities.
- ! OU No. 2 Dallas Public Housing Authority: Under an Administrative Order on Consent with EPA, the Dallas Housing Authority began in July, 1994, the demolition of 167 multi-family buildings and Removal of lead contaminated materials equivalent to the single family residential efforts. The cleanup was completed in April 1995.
- ! OU No. 3 Slag Piles/Former Landfills: Remedial Investigation/ Feasibility Study completed in early 1997. This area consists of three (3) separate sites, two (2) which are former City of Dallas municipal landfills (sites 3 and 4) and one disposal area (site 1). The study completed in 1997 identified surficial slag and battery chips on all three sites. A Proposed Plan was issued in July of 1997 to solicit public comment on the proposed remedial action. On September 30, 1997, a Record of Decision (ROD) was signed by the Acting Regional Administrator and documented the final remedy for Operable Unit #3. The remedy calls for removal and off-site disposal of surficial slag and battery chips from site 1, and containment of portions of sites 3 and 4 where cleanup goals are exceeded.
- ! OU No. 4 Former Smelter Facility : Consists of nine buildings and structures, including a 300 foot stack, that were part of the former secondary lead smelting operations. A ROD was signed on February 28, 1996 and documented the final remedy for this Operable Unit. The final remedy calls for decontamination, demolition and off-site disposal of the buildings, structures, 300 foot stack, and any contaminated soil, up to two (2) feet. The Remedial Design for Operable Unit #4 was completed in the Spring of 1997. EPA has signed a Consent Decree with seven Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) to conduct the remedial action for the smelter facility, OU No. 4.
- ! OU No. 5 Former Battery Wrecking Facility : Consists of two buildings, a former surface impoundment, a former landfill, and slag burial areas that were used to support the secondary lead smelting operations and are located across the street from Operable Unit #4. A ROD was signed on April 3, 1997 and documented the final remedy for this Operable Unit. The final remedy calls for decontamination of both buildings, demolition of one building and off-site disposal and containment of the former surface impoundment, the former landfill and the slag burial area.

## Site Assessment and Ranking

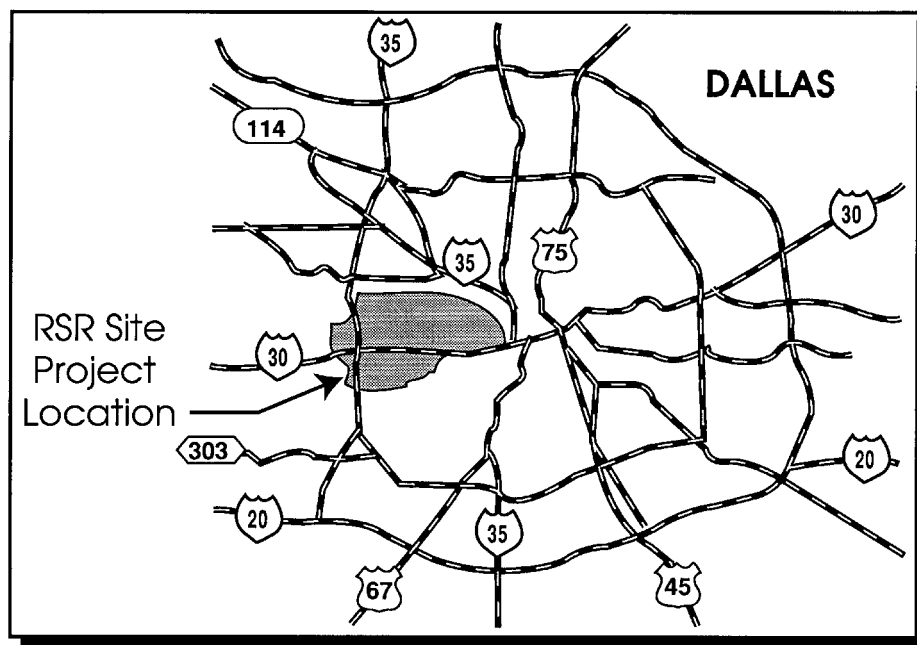
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### NPL LISTING HISTORY

Site HRS Score: 50.00  
Proposed Date: 5/10/93  
Final Date: 9/29/95  
NPL Update: No. 14

## Site Map and Diagram

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## The Remediation Process

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### Site History:

- ! The RSR Corporation Superfund Site Study Area encompasses approximately 13.6 square miles in the West Dallas. Population within the site numbers approximately 17,000.
- ! On May 10, 1993, EPA proposed to add the RSR Corporation site to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). The RSR site consists of five operable Units (OUs); OU1 - Residential property, OU2 - DHA property, OU3 - Slag piles, OU4 - Smelter property and OU5 - Battery Breaking facility/Other Industrial property.
- ! In consultation with the ATSDR, EPA established the removal action cleanup levels for residential areas at 500 ppm lead, 20 ppm arsenic, or 30 ppm cadmium.
- ! From September 1992 through February 1993, TNRCC visually inspected 6,800 properties in West Dallas and collected samples from battery chip fill areas.
- ! From 1991 to June 1994, EPA ERB conducted removals at 420 residential and high risk areas (schools, church playgrounds, parks) in west Dallas. Thirty (30) residential owners refused access for collect of samples or removal activities. From these locations, 37,412 cubic yards of non-hazardous soils and 8,973 cubic yards of hazardous soils were removed and disposed of at off-site permitted facilities.

- ! October-November 1993, EPA conducted in-home sampling at 352 residential locations and City of Dallas and ATSDR collect blood samples from 558 children (40 above 10 : g/dL) and personnel questionnaire at OU No. 1 and OU No. 2.
- ! August 1993, EPA signed AOC with DHA (OU No. 2). DHA conducted a RI and demolition and removal action with EPA approval and oversight. In March 1995, DHA completed demolition of 167 building and removal of approximately 24,000 cubic yards of contaminated soils from OU No. 2 to off-site disposal facilities.
- ! May 9, 1995, EPA signed the Record of Decision for OU No. 1 and OU No. 2 stating that No Further Action is necessary for protection of human health and the environment at these OUs.
- ! May 10, 1995, EPA began 30-day public comment period on the Proposed Plan for OU No. 4. Public comment period ended July 12, 1995. Recommended alternative for OU No. 4 consists of demolition and off-site disposal of all buildings and structures (including the 300-foot stack) and containment of source materials. ROD for OU No. 4 is under development, while other options to remediation are also being evaluated.
- ! On May 31, 1995, EPA initiated a non-time critical removal on OU No. 4 (former smelter facility) to address over 500 waste drums, 72 residual/waste piles and 50 laboratories. All material was successfully disposed off-site at permitted facilities and the action was completed in July 1995.
- ! Record of Decision for RSR OU No. 4, smelter facility, was signed by the Deputy Regional Administrator on February 28, 1996.
- ! The proposed deletion of OUs No. 1 and 2 as partial deletions of the RSR site were submitted for a 30-day public comment period on April 11, 1996 through May 10, 1996. At the request of some community members, the public comment period was extended an additional 30 days through June 14, 1996. EPA is currently evaluating and responding to comments received. The proposed deletion is only for the residential locations and does not affect the status of disposal/landfill locations, smelter facility, and former process facility, OUs No. 3, 4, and 5, which will remain on the NPL.
- ! The RI and FS for OU No. 5 were completed in April 1996. The Proposed Plan was released to the public for the 30-day public comment period on June 18, 1996. At the request of the community, the public comment period was extended an additional 30 days through August 16, 1996. The Record of Decision was signed on April 3, 1997.
- ! The RI and FS for OU No. 3 were completed in 1996. The Proposed Plan was submitted for public review and comments in July 1997. The Record of Decision was signed by the Acting Regional Administrator on September 30, 1997.
- ! On April 8, 1998, EPA issued Waiver of Special Notice and Demand Letters to six (6) major potential responsible parties to conduct the remedial design and remedial action for RSR OU No. 5.

## Health Considerations:

- ! Blood lead analyses conducted in 1983 concluded that approximately 10% of children under six years of age and living within a 1/2 mile radius of the smelter had blood lead concentrations greater than the then current standard of 30 : g/dL; 90% exceeded the future standard of 10 : g/dL.
- ! Blood lead analyses conducted in 1993 as part of the RI/FS for OU #1 and #2 showed that 0% of children exceeded the old standard of 30 : g/dL while 8.0 % exceeded the new standard of 10 : g/dL. Eighty six (86%) percent of households with children that have elevated lead level (above 10 : g/dL) were also found to have soil lead concentrations of less than 250 ppm.

## Record of Decision

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### ROD History

Operable Unit No. 1: May 9, 1995  
Operable Unit No. 2: May 9, 1995  
Operable Unit No. 4: February 28, 1996  
Operable Unit No. 5: April 3, 1997  
Operable Unit No. 3: September 30, 1997

## Community Involvement

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- ! Community Relations Plan: 12/91, 5/94
- ! Open houses and workshops: 12/91, 6/93, 7/93, 9/93, 11/93, 1/94, 3/94, 6/94, 11/94, 4/96
- ! Public Meetings: Proposed Plan on OU 1 and OU 2 on 12/94; radio public meetings on 1/95, 5/95, 4/96, 7/96, 7/97
- ! Bilingual Team appointed; photographs and responsibilities published 7/93; updated 11/94
- ! Milestone Fact Sheets: 12/91, 5/93, 6/93, 7/93, 10/93, 1/94, 3/94, 8/94, 9/94 & 10/94 (EE/CA), 11/94 (Prop. Plans, OUs #1 & #2), 6/95 (ROD, OUs 1 & 2), 9/95 (NPL-Final) 6/96, 3/97, 4/97
- ! Satellite office established 6/93 closed April 30, 95
- ! Citizens on site mailing list: 950
- ! Constituency Interest: Some very vocal and concerned citizen groups concerned about Environmental Justice issues, distrust of government (all levels), compensation for past exposure, jobs and economic development. Training that will be in place on or around Dec. 97.
- ! Site Repository: Dallas Public Library, West Branch  
2332 Singleton Blvd.  
Dallas, TX 75212

## Technical Assistance Grant

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- ! Availability Notice: 5/92 - Re-advertised 12/92
- ! Letters of Intent Received: People's Environmental Action Coordinating Education (PEACE) - 6/92 (only response).
- ! Final Application Received: 5/5/93
- ! Grant Award: 5/20/93 (only 10 days after the site was proposed to the NPL, earliest Technical Assistance Grant award in program)
- ! Current Status: TAG closed.

## Contacts

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- ! **Remedial Project Manager:** Carlos Sanchez, 214-665-8507, Mail Code: 6SF-AP
- ! **EPA Region 6 Ombudsman:** Arnie Ondarza, 214/665-6790, 6SF
- ! **On Scene Coordinators:** Althea Foster, 214-665-2268, Mail Code: 6SF-R1  
Ken Clark, 214-665-6774, Mail Code: 6SF-R2
- ! **Community Coordinator:** Linda Rodriguez, 214-665-2138, Mail Code: 6SF-P
- ! **Attorney:** Michael Barra, 214-665-2143, Mail Code: 6SF-DL
- ! **Toxicologist (EPA):** Jon Rauscher, 214-665-8513, Mail Code: 6SF-L
- ! **State Contact (TNRCC):** Diane Poteet, 512/239-2502, Mail Code 143
- ! **State Coordinator (EPA):** Karen Bond, 214-665-6682, Mail Code: 6SF-AP
- ! **Prime Contractor:** CH2M HILL

## Enforcement

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- ! Several major PRPs have been identified for the RSR site including RSR Corporation, Quemetco Metals Limited, Inc., Murmur Corporation, City of Dallas, other landowners and operators, and a large generator group. Several hundred generator de minimus parties have also been identified.
- ! On August 9, 1993, EPA signed an Administrative Order on Consent with the Dallas Housing Authority to conduct a remedial investigation, feasibility study, and demolition and removal action activities for Operable Unit No. 2 which is the public residential property owned by DHA.
- ! On February 6, 1998, EPA Region 6 signed a Consent Decree with a group of seven major generator PRPs (Customer Group) to conduct the remedial design and remedial action for the smelter facility, OU No. 4. The consent decree was logged in the U.S. District Court on May 29, 1998. The public comment period for the consent decree ended on July 27, 1998. EPA is assisting the Department of Justice in reviewing and responding to public comment received. The judge will then decide to approve the Consent Decree or take some other action. There is no schedule as to when the Court will make a decision on finalizing the consent decree.

## Present Status and Issues

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- ! Utilizing Lightning ROD techniques; decision making accelerated 3-5 years.

- ! This is one of Region 6's highest priority Environmental Justice sites. Population affected is low income, and predominantly minority. The RSR site is only one of a plethora of other environmental problems (e.g. parts of the city have 25% and higher of homes with leaded paint) and other social issues. Challenge for EPA is to bring all other responsible governmental entities to the "table" to address societal problems.
- ! The Acting Regional Administrator signed the Consent Decree with the Customer Group PRPs on February 6, 1998. The Consent Decree was forwarded to EPA HQs and Department of Justice for approval. The Department of Justice logged the Consent Decree with the Court. There is no schedule as to when the Court will make a decision on finalizing the consent decree.
- ! EPA has completed reviewing the draft remedial action work plan for the smelter facility (OU No. 4), and submitted comments to the Customer Group Engineer.
- ! EPA is assisting the Department of Justice in responding to comments received during the public comment period for the consent decree.

## Benefits

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- ! Residential Areas Removal Actions have cleaned up 420 single family residential properties and 167 multifamily buildings. All residential soils of West Dallas now have less than 500 ppm lead from RSR unless the owner did not grant access. Some 559 children were tested for blood lead levels and 372 household were sampled (soils, paints, tap water, dust). As a result of the smelter shut down, cleanups conducted in the mid 1980s and EPA's extensive cleanup recently completed blood lead levels in west Dallas are now below the national averages. Twenty other metals were also analyzed (e.g., antimony, copper, zinc, silver, etc.) and all were found to be at safe or undetectable levels.
- ! Other Areas Final remedies were selected for Operable Unit Nos. 3, 4 and 5. Plans to initiate the Remedial Designs for Operable Units 3 and 5 are underway, the Remedial Design for OU No. 4 was completed in the Spring of 1997. Once the Remedial Actions on OU Nos. 3, 4 and 5 are completed the sources of smelter contamination will be eliminated from the west Dallas community.
- ! On February 6, 1998, EPA Region 6 signed a Consent Decree with a group of major generator PRPs (Customer Group) to conduct the remedial design and remedial action for the smelter facility, OU No. 4. The Consent Decree is not final until the court approves and signs the document. Currently, EPA and DOJ are reviewing and preparing responses to comments. There is no schedule as to when the Court will make a final decision on finalizing the consent decree. In the meantime, EPA has reviewed the draft remedial action work plan and submitted to the Customer Group Engineer. Once field construction activities start, it is estimated that it will take about nine (9) months to complete the cleanup at the smelter facility.